Who We Are...

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In Your Career…

• What has been your greatest success?

• What has been your greatest challenge?
1. How can we define student engagement and monitor it in digital learning environments?

2. Are there cultural factors that may impact how students engage in learning in these environments? How can I respect diverse learners and ensure equity in learning?

3. How can teaching SEL skills increase student engagement?

4. How can use of blended learning (adaptive learning platforms) increase student engagement?
Ms. Alia Knight-Dahl
Classroom Teacher – Frederick County Public Schools
Blended Learning and Personalized Learning Instructor – Hood College
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in digital learning environments?

Engagement in a digital format may not look like engagement in a traditional setting.
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in digital learning environments?

Asynchronous vs Synchronous
Are there cultural factors that may impact how students engage in learning in these environments? How can I respect diverse learners and ensure equity in learning?

Don’t sweat the small stuff

• Students eating and lying down
• Students may have additional responsibilities in the home (babysitting etc.)
• Cameras and Microphones may be off
• Students’ homes may not be an issue of Home and Garden
How can teaching SEL skills increase student engagement?

• When you establish a relationship as a trusted adult
• “Buy in” happens for students when they know you care
• Teach self-advocacy, time management, and coping strategies
How can the use of blended learning (adaptive learning platforms) increase student engagement?

Give students...
- Choice in how they demonstrate their learning
- Variety to break up monotony
- Opportunities to take advantage of distance learning environments

Educators should...
- Use goal setting strategies
- Allow students to design ways to demonstrate mastery
- Provide timely feedback that is meaningful and actionable
- Change up activities
- Plan for offline tasks
Dr. Nancy Lewin
Sr. Director with the Center for Equity and Learning – ACT, Inc.
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in a digital learning environment?

- Student engagement in a virtual setting is directly linked to a student’s degree of attention, interest, optimism and curiosity expressed by their level of active participation.

- It calls for a student being present in the moment and open to receive and immerse themselves within the virtual setting.
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in a digital learning environment?

**01** Collect student data

**02** Inform our instructional improvement

**03** Provide equitable achievement

**04** Focus on needed learning interventions and extensions

**05** Provide feedback

**06** Guide the asset-based approach, learning style/modality
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in a digital learning environment?

- Ask a check-in and checkout question for the day
- Student can use a personal playlist/movie list or meme that best represents how they are feeling to monitor their feelings
- Build in survey time
- Use a shared document for communication and feedback to enhance student & teacher connection
- Student can use a personal playlist/movie list or meme that best represents how they are feeling to monitor their feelings
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in a digital learning environment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Discussion</th>
<th>Clear product expectation doc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use chat box for student input/feedback, opinion</td>
<td>Include variety of mixed media: video, visual representations,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous activities/work</td>
<td>Survey, polls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use capability/apps: idea generation, brainstorming, mind mapping, reverse brainstorming etc…</td>
<td>Virtual representation models: number pieces number rack, number line, number frames, graphing calculator, etc…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Libraries: manipulatives, calculators, locations, etc…</td>
<td>Gamification: points, collectibles, meme of the day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synchronous group documents</td>
<td>Surprise game that includes for content support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout rooms</td>
<td>Choice menu &amp; variety of product</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are there cultural factors that may impact how students engage in learning in these environments?

- Need for virtual nature of the class to increase student feeling of connection and engagement
- Understand your students
- Incorporate different teaching styles
- Equal access to opportunities
- Celebrate diversity
- Encourage differing perspectives
- Include diverse learning materials
- Appreciating and valuing diversity
Are there cultural factors that may impact how students engage in learning in these environments?

• Today’s schools are increasingly multicultural and multilingual with students from diverse social and economic backgrounds.
• Educators and community agencies serve students with different motivation for engaging in learning, behaving positively, and performing academically.
• Social and emotional learning (SEL) provides a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances students’ ability to succeed in school, careers, and life.
How can I respect diverse learners and ensure equity in learning?

• Reflect on your own beliefs
• Reduce race and gender barriers to learning
• Establish an inclusive environment early
• Be dynamic with classroom space
• Accommodate learning styles and disabilities
• Be mindful of how you use technology
• Be aware of religious holidays
• Include a diverse curriculum/resources/activities
How can I respect diverse learners and ensure equity in learning?

• Learn your students’ background, interests, strengths and learning style
• Create opportunities for students to get to know one another and gain an appreciation for the diversity they bring and their uniqueness
• Increase access to different role models and people as a resource so that students can connect with a varied cultures
• Have students help to create a safe classroom/virtual classroom standard/norms
• Engage in building -up peers in learning
• Create a safe and welcoming space
• Help students not feel out of place
• Acclimate students to a culturally diverse world
• Lift up the value of the cross -cultural class
• Increase perspective of diversity
How can I respect diverse learners and ensure equity in learning?

- Provide students with evidence that people who don’t look or act like them are still people just like them.
- Teach this viewpoint by building a culture of learning from one another rather than a culture of passing judgment on differences in values and beliefs.
- Provide students a variety of opportunities to share stories of their home life, such as family holiday practices, providing fellow students with a window into their peer’s cultural traditions to help students recognize the essential humanity and value of different types of people.
- Teach students to embrace their own culture and heritage
- Embrace cultural individuality helps students understand their worth and feel appreciated.
- Build cultural awareness
- Build-in inclusion for greater understanding and empathy
How can teaching SEL skills increase student engagement?

• Increase the feeling of self-acceptance and belonging
• Learn stress management skills
• Increase student engagement and motivation
• Increase empathy for peers, reduction in bullying
• Reduce absenteeism
• Increased mastery of coursework
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How can we define student engagement and monitor it in digital learning environments?
How can we define student engagement and monitor it in digital learning environments?

- Clarify and share learning intentions and criteria for success.
- Engineer effective classroom discussions, questions, and learning tasks.
- Provide feedback that moves learners forward.
- Activate students as the owners of their own learning.
- Activate students as instructional resources for one another.

Assessments should...
Instructors now have a rare opportunity to create a culture that can support student engagement using a digital learning environment by supporting:

- mutual respect (between instructor and students, and especially between students)
- openness to differing views and opinions
- evidence-based argument and reasoning
- making learning engaging and fun
- making explicit and encouraging the underlying values and epistemology of a subject discipline
- transparency in assessment (e.g. rubrics and criteria)
- recognition of and respect for the personalities of each student in the class
- collaboration and mutual support

Are there cultural factors that may impact how students engage in learning in these environments?
How can teaching SEL skills increase student engagement?

Social-emotional learning is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively:
• apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions
• set and achieve positive goals
• feel and show empathy for others
• establish and maintain positive relationships
• make responsible decisions
How can teaching SEL skills increase student engagement?

**Evidence-Based SEL Gains**

**Student**
- boosts social-emotional skills
- improves attitudes about self, others, and school
- positive classroom behavior
- lifts achievement on standardized tests 11 percentile points
- lifts teacher retention rates
- fewer conduct problems
- less emotional stress
- lower drug use
- lower intervention costs for schools

**Teacher**
- Teachers who possess social and emotional competencies are more likely to stay in the classroom longer because they’re able to work more effectively with challenging students—one of the main causes of burnout
- Statistically significant associations between measured social-emotional skills in kindergarten and key young adult outcomes across multiple domains of education, employment, criminal activity, substance abuse, and mental health
How can use of blended learning (adaptive learning platforms) increase student achievement?

• Teachers and students must be present (part of the time), but the content and student work is divided into parts to be completed with teacher presence (whether via a live webinar or in a physical classroom) and times spent digitally on computers, tablets, etc.

• This multi-modal learning approach can also include learning at home using digital tools and platforms, with assignments like watching a video or completing an online activity.

• When combined, these learning experiences complement and supplement each other.
How can use of blended learning (adaptive learning platforms) increase student achievement?

• Accessibility, offering anytime and anywhere delivery
• Training that is self-paced and matched to the learners’ needs
• Timely dissemination of up-to-date information
• Streamlined and effective learning delivery
Closing Thoughts
Take a moment to think about your learning today and jot down a few ideas about how you can transfer this learning to support student success.
Thank you!

Please take a moment to complete our survey:
https://act.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8DpdJ1T7zedYUaV

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Presenter Name: Bonnie